

# Global Reliance

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**Global Reliance**

Air Force Office of  
Special Investigations  
November/December 2005  
Vol. 31, No. 6



**Brig. Gen. (sel.) Dana A. Simmons**  
Commander  
**Capt. Regen Wilson**  
Public Affairs Chief  
**MSgt. Carolyn Gwathmey**  
PA Superintendent  
**James C. Dillard**  
Editor





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Brig. Gen. Dana (Santa) Simmons and 'elves' say, "Happy Holidays."

# OSI Family

*Celebrate the joy of being part of a great team, family this holiday season*

Photo courtesy of Susan Simmons



**ROTC cadet Dana Simmons and his wife, Susan,** pose for a picture shortly after their 1975 wedding. General Simmons has said to pay special attention to family members during the holidays, including OSI family.

**Brig. Gen.**

**Dana A. Simmons**

**OSI Commander**

*It's been said that "Nothing counts so much as family, the rest are just strangers." Perhaps that's why I think it's so important we view our organization as more than a federal agency of which we are employees, but rather a family of which we are all members.*

You've seen me use the term "OSI Family" a lot, and you'll continue seeing it. The family element of this team is something I consider crucial to our success. If we view ourselves as part of a family, we're

more inclined to look out for one another than if we're just sharing the same office space.

We have a vested interest in the success of our colleagues, because in a family the success of the whole is often dependent on the success of the individual. In that respect, OSI is much like a team. But calling us "OSI Family" instead of "Team OSI" renders a deeper meaning. It means we share more than just wins and losses; we share life itself. Think about it, you spend as much time at work as you do at home. That's a sobering thought, I admit. It's also why I place a high value on spending time

See **family** on page 22



Photo by Mike Hastings

**Brig. Gen. Dana A. Simmons** granddaughter, **Madison,** brings up his new general stars for his sons, Jeff and Matt, to pin on. Lt. Gen. Robert E. Polk, Air Force Inspector General, left, was also present for General Simmons' promotion ceremony.

## Promotions: *A family affair*

**James C. Dillard**

**Global Reliance Editor**

Col. Dana A. Simmons, OSI commander, pinned on brigadier general stars in a promotion ceremony Dec. 9 at the Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Community Activity Center.

Much of his family was present, including his OSI 'extended' family.

In an e-mail sent out to the command, he invited everyone to his promotion ceremony, "...whenever we pass important milestones in our lives, we usually want to include our family in the event," he said. "As the head of this very large and distinguished family, I

See **promoted** on page 18

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**2nd Lt.  
John Tamasitas**  
*Det. 105, Robins  
AFB, Ga.*

**A** twelve-member jury panel of Air Force officers sentenced Senior Airman Andrew Witt to death by lethal injection for the July 5, 2004, murders of fellow Senior Airman Andy Schliepsiek and his wife, Jamie Schliepsiek.

Airman Witt, assigned to the 116th Air Control Wing at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., at the time of the killing, was also convicted of the attempted premeditated murder of Staff Sgt. Jason King. The jury's unanimous decision was read aloud to a crowd of family, friends and media in the Bibb County Courthouse in Macon, Ga., Oct. 13.

Airman Witt is the first Air Force member since 1990 to receive the death penalty. The previous sentence was set aside on appeal, subsequently making Airman Witt the sole Air Force on death row at the U.S. Military Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

"His sentencing marked the end to a 15-month long investigation that tested and proved the mettle and character of OSI's Detachment 105," said Lt. Col. William Schupp, Det. 105 commander.

SA Alec Wildes, Det. 105, was on the case since the first phone call to his home July 5, 2004. He was the lead member

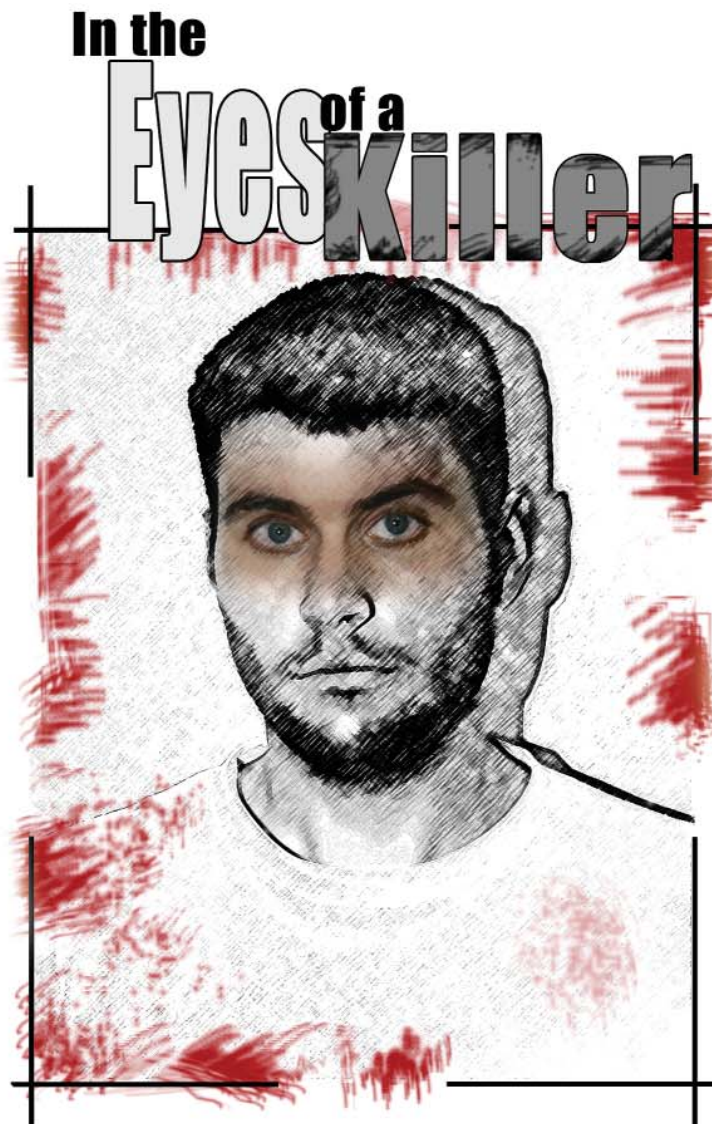


Photo illustration by James C. Dillard

**Senior Airman Andrew Witt, pictured above, was convicted for murdering two friends and attempting to murder another. He received the death sentence; it was the first time a jury has passed down that verdict to an Air Force member since 1990.**

of an eight-agent OSI team in the investigation that produced the apprehension, confession and all investigative measures for the conviction and sentencing of Airman Witt.

Half of the agents who arrived on scene that July morning were probationary agents, including SA Keely Flatow, the acting Det. 105 commander at the time, and SA Wildes.

### **The events leading up to the murders**

Following a Fourth of July cookout at Sergeant King's residence, Mrs. Schliepsiek told her husband and Sergeant King that their mutual friend, Airman Witt, made a "pass" at her the evening before. Airman Witt was a close friend of theirs, so Airman Schliepsiek was said to be shocked and angered.

He and Sergeant King began calling Airman Witt repeatedly on his cell phone. According to Sergeant King, an argument ensued between Airman Witt, Sergeant King and Airman Schliepsiek that became very heated over Airman Witt's actions the evening before. Airman Schliepsiek and Sergeant King also threatened to alert Airman Witt's commander of the incident.

The phone calls began at approximately 1:37 a.m. and ended at 2:20 a.m., according to phone records obtained by SA Wildes.

The last record of a phone call between the three men was a 35-minute conversation between Sergeant King and Airman Witt that ended without the situation being resolved.

Special Agents James Billups and Lamar Cromwell, Det. 105, conducted the interrogation of Airman Witt who confessed that following the phone calls he got dressed into full battle dress uniform and retrieved a six-inch combat knife from his closet. Airman Witt said he was intending to use it to "scare" Airman Schliepsiek and Sergeant King if they tried to beat him up.

He also said he dressed in BDU's, so he could observe the group without being seen. Airman Witt then put the knife in the trunk of his car and drove onto base in the direction of the Schliepsiek's neighborhood.

Robins AFB gate surveillance video, maintained by the 78th Security Forces Squadron, was reviewed and showed Airman Witt driving onto the base at 2:27 a.m., just minutes after the final phone call was concluded.

At about 4 a.m., the Schliepsieks and Sergeant King

went to the young couple's residence around the block. Shortly after they arrived at the residence, Airman Witt placed the combat knife into his right cargo pocket and made his way to the front door of the home.

Airman Witt entered the home through the front door unannounced. He initially encountered Airman Schliepsiek who, startled by Airman Witt's presence, asked why he was there. A struggle ensued between the two men and Sergeant King intervened attempting to restrain Airman Witt, according to Sergeant King's explanation of the incident given to Special Agents Billups and Eddie Selby, Det. 105.

Airman Witt took the knife from his pocket and stabbed Sergeant King in the kidney. During the initial stabbing, Airman Schliepsiek was also stabbed in the back twice, severing his spinal cord, rendering him incapacitated. Airman Witt then turned his attention back to Sergeant King who was trying to escape out the kitchen door.

Before getting the door unlocked, Sergeant King was stabbed again by Airman Witt and then another time when he opened the door. Airman Witt stabbed Sergeant King a fourth and final time while chasing him outside.

Sergeant King tripped and fell in the street while trying to flee, and Airman Witt left him there to die. The murderous Airman returned to the house, according to his confession, because he did not want to "leave a witness."

Upon re-entering the residence, Airman Witt made his way to the master bedroom where Mrs. Schliepsiek was hiding and kicked open the locked door. He stabbed her six times

before leaving her to bleed to death.

He then left the bedroom and delivered the fatal blow to Airman Schliepsiek, stabbing him in the heart as he lay nearly paralyzed on the living room floor.

The attack of Mrs. Schliepsiek and the final stab wound to Airman Schliepsiek was captured on a 911 tape recording that was obtained by SA Wildes and played in the courtroom during the proceedings. Somehow, Airman Schliepsiek managed to make the 911 call on his cell phone after his spinal cord was severed.

Sergeant King managed to make it to a neighboring home and ring the doorbell. Sergeant King told the resident of the home that "Andrew" was the one who had stabbed him. The neighbor called 911 and alerted authorities of the stabbing.

According to Airman Witt's confession, he left the residence and discarded the knife in a nearby yard. He then returned to his car to drive home. He tossed his combat boots and his BDU cap into a dumpster in downtown Warner Robins, Ga., and left his BDU blouse and trousers on his bedroom floor before falling asleep.

At approximately 4:30 a.m. on July 5, 2004, SA Wildes received the phone call at his home that began the investigation into the murders of Airman Schliepsiek and his wife.

The first OSI agents on the scene were Special Agents Wildes and Billups. SA Flatow and the superintendent, SA Greg Armes, mobilized the rest of the detachment. Almost immediately, Det. 105 members began rolling in to process the crime scene.

Sergeant King told SA Billups the person they were looking for was named "Andrew," a person he said worked at the 116th ACW at Robins AFB.

After interviewing several close friends and neighbors that morning, Special Agents Billups and Flatow received the information they needed to identify the suspect as Airman Witt.

From the information, they were also able to discern where he lived.

Meanwhile, Special Agents Wildes, Selby and Donald Nalley were collecting evidence at the crime scene.

#### **Returning to the scene**

At approximately 6 p.m. that day, Airman Witt and his roommate Senior

Airman Ed Love drove onto the base after Airman Love saw something on the news about the murders.

He had messages on his phone from the Schliepsieks concerning the arguments between them and Airman Witt.

The next morning, Airman Love tried calling both the Schliepsieks repeatedly, with hope of resolving the situation between Airman Witt and Schliepsiek, but his phone calls went unanswered. Airman Love expressed his concern for the Schliepsieks' well-being to Airman Witt. He then convinced his roommate to drive to the base with him that afternoon to check on the Schliepsieks.

"Love confronted the grim

reality of what happened the night before as he witnessed the police tape and OSI agents surrounding his friends' home," SA Wildes said.

Special Agents Billups and Cromwell stopped the vehicle and asked both men for identification. They identified Airman Witt and immediately placed him under arrest.

He was taken to Det. 105 where Special Agents Billups

and Cromwell received a 10-page written confession from Airman Witt. He confessed to the murders of the Schliepsieks and the attempted murder of Sergeant King.

"Special Agents Thomas Rutherford and Tosha Palmer and (local police) Investigator Brian Sponheimer obtained a search warrant for Witt's

home where they subsequently found his BDU blouse and pants he wore the night of the murders, adding yet another link to this horrific crime," SA Wildes said.

Following the first day's events, more evidence began rolling in as DNA test results, forensic analysis and other circumstantial evidence gathered at the crime scene was processed and sent to Det. 105.

"As the evidence mounted and the trial date drew near, all the Det. 105 agents worked feverishly to cover all possible investigative steps," SA Wildes said. "I worked closely with the SJA (staff judge advocate) for

See **Witt** on page 17

**P**art of the attacks on Airman Schliepsiek and his wife was caught on a 911 emergency recording. The recording was played in the courtroom during Airman Witt's hearing.



Aliases were used in this article for agents.

# Terrorism in California

*Four men are indicted by a federal grand jury for their alleged roles in a terrorist plot to attack government facilities*

**Article courtesy of**  
**OSI Det. 110,**  
**Los Angeles AFB**

**O**SI Det. 110, Los Angeles AFB, members recently participated in a major task force operation that foiled a domestic terrorism plot to attack military facilities and other targets in the greater Los Angeles area.

As a result of their efforts, four men were indicted in late August by a federal grand jury in Santa Ana, Calif., for their alleged roles in a terrorist plot to attack U.S. military and Israeli government facilities.

"[These] indictment[s] allege that these defendants turned their terrorist plans and actions against locations in their own country, targeting American military facilities, religious institutions and other facilities right here in the United States," said Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. "Thanks to the work of able investigators at all levels of government, any further acts of violence arising from this dangerous conspiracy — a conspiracy, which included identification of target locations, procurement of

weapons, firearms and physical training, recruitment efforts and financing operations through armed robberies — were prevented."

It all began July 7, when the local police department arrested two individuals during the course of a gas station robbery. Subsequent searches of their residences disclosed a large amount of Islamic literature and documentation, which aroused the police's suspicion.

The police department immediately contacted the Long Beach, Calif., FBI-Joint Terrorism Task Force, who recognized the police had discovered something more than a simple robbery. They formed a joint investigative task force to further look into the massive amount of evidentiary material.

FBI Special Agent Randy Parsons, the assistant director in charge of the Los Angeles field office, requested that Det.

110 be the lead agency for the Department of Defense with the primary responsibility of having "one DoD voice."

"OSI Det. 110 was charged with ensuring a smooth exchange of information with other DoD investigative agencies," said SA Michael Wilson, Det. 110 special agent in charge. "I selected Special Agent Frank Roberts, Jr., to serve as the DoD point of contact and to lead the team of agents involved in the case."

Special Agents Wilson and Roberts immediately began assisting the task force with analyzing more than 53,500 pages of documents seized during the investigation.

"It was SA Roberts who found the

'smoking gun' documents that positively linked the 'Jam'iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh' organization to the target list containing the military targets in the Los Angeles area," SA Wilson said. "Because of SA Robert's keen investigative ability and attention to detail, a fourth subject confessed to writing the target list and also to conspiring to carry out attacks against military facilities and recruitment establishments."

The investigation lasted seven weeks and involved 25 federal,

state and local law enforcement agencies assigned to the special terrorism task force. Additionally, numerous federal grand jury subpoenas were executed including: review of 796 telephone and

**“The successful prevention of this attack was the result of a process that worked as it was designed; the type of police work that takes place every day on our streets by local agencies.”**

**- FBI SA Randy Parsons, assistant director in charge of the Los Angeles field office**



36 financial records and four prison confidential files. There were also 12 federal, two state and three consent search warrants.

The indictments charged all four individuals with conspiracy to levy war against the U.S. government through terrorism and conspiracy to possess and discharge firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence.

Three of the individuals were charged with conspiracy to kill members of the U.S. government uniformed services and conspiracy to kill foreign officials.

SA Parsons said, "This multi-agency investigation, led by the FBI JTTF-Long Beach, disrupted the activities of individuals acting on behalf of JIS who were planning and had taken actions in preparation of carrying out attacks on American soil."

He added that had these individuals gone undetected, their plan had the potential to inflict significant casualties within the city and county of Los

### Case details

According to the indictment against the JIS members, they purchased weapons or otherwise tried to acquire weapons in furtherance of their terrorist conspiracy and made efforts to raise money by robbing gas stations. The indictment alleges that 11 times beginning May 30, the defendants robbed or attempted to rob gas stations in several cities and towns in Southern California. (Information courtesy of the U.S. Department of Justice.)

Angeles.

"The successful prevention of this attack was the result of a process that worked as it was designed; the type of police work that takes place every day on our streets by local agencies," he said.

A letter sent to Brig. Gen. Dana A. Simmons, OSI commander, by the LAPD chief of police said, "The swift and thorough actions of the DoD team were directly responsible for the success of this multi-agency operation. Specifically, OSI Det. 110 agents made

an enormous contribution to the highly successful resolution of this threat to our national security."

*Editor's notes: In addition to SA Roberts, the following OSI Det. 110 agents played a part in this investigation: Special Agents Nelson Oink, Christopher Luckies, Bernard Kuhtei, Kevin Saiton and James Doderd. The suspects in this article are innocent until proven guilty. Some information in this article was pulled from a U.S. Department of Justice Press Release. GR*

# Islamic or not?

## Jam'iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh

The Jam'iyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh group was founded by a Sacramento, Calif., prison inmate named Kevin James, who believed he was following the correct Islamic guidelines. According to the charges against him, his group was founded to attack any enemies of Islam, including the U.S. government and Jewish/non-Jewish Israel supporters. Mr. James allegedly distributed a document in prison that justified the killing of all "infidels." He made all the members in the JIS take an oath to never discuss the existence of their group. He also allegedly sought to establish terrorist JIS cells outside of prison to carry out violent assaults against "infidels."

# RUTHLESS RAVEN

*OSI heads up joint operation after  
several drug smuggling incidents*

**MSgt. Carolyn Gwathmey**  
*OSI Public Affairs*

**T**he Air Force Office of Special Investigations is heading up Operation Ruthless Raven, a joint task force to combat drug smuggling that kicked off operations in October.

"The goals of the Ruthless Raven Task Force are to identify vulnerabilities in the Air Force transportation and mail systems and to leverage internal and external capabilities to counter the threat of drug smuggling," said Col. Edward Hagerty, OSI's Ruthless Raven task force commander.

The task force, requested by the Air Force chief of staff, has two components: an internal Air Force element and a joint element comprised of Air Force,

Department of Defense and other federal law enforcement agencies. The Air Force element has representatives from



Photos provided by SA Bernard Rich

**Aircrew members disembark** from their aircraft. Some aircrew members and passengers have smuggled illegal drugs aboard their transports recently, including one incident where a C-17 was discovered to be carrying 35 pounds of cocaine. (Left) A security forces K-9 police officer prepares to search a waiting aircraft.

OSI, Security Forces, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard and other functional experts. The joint element includes the Naval Criminal Investigations Service, Army Criminal Investigations Division, U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Postal Inspectors.





The task force works with Air Mobility Command and U.S. Transportation Command to identify high-risk target areas. It identifies overseas locations where narcotics are readily available and matches them up with the numbers of military aircraft transiting those locations. Once that data is compiled, the task force analyzes the results, determines the target areas and selects flights to be inspected.

"We focused the bulk of our efforts on these target areas," Colonel Hagerty said. "We need to use our resources judiciously and try to direct our efforts to the areas we think will be most fruitful."

OSI agents at seven CONUS bases, supported by Air Force Security Forces personnel as well as by agents from numerous federal and local law enforcement agencies, conducted inspections of carefully targeted aircraft arriving from overseas locations during October. U.S. Customs personnel seized several items of contraband, but no narcotics were found.

"That doesn't mean we can afford to take our eye off the ball with this," said OSI Commander Brig. Gen. Dana A. Simmons. "That's why the next phase of sustained random inspections will be an important contribution to keeping our Air Force drug free."

Several incidents in the past year have brought to the forefront a need to focus more attention on drug smuggling. Two events that stand out: Thirty-five pounds of cocaine were discovered aboard a C-17 based out of Charleston, S.C., that was en route from Colombia to Texas when the drugs were found. A C-5 from Stewart Air National Guard in N.Y., arrived home from Germany with 290,000 tabs of ecstasy.

These are just a few examples of drug smuggling using Air Force air-



**A C-5 Galaxy from Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., prepares for take off. Using these large transports is just one way Airmen have been moving their drugs. They've also been using the mailing system.**

craft; drug smugglers are also using the mailing system to get their drug of choice to their duty stations. For example, U.S. Postal Inspections Service agents in Florida intercepted a package with Ketamine, a schedule II narcotic, en route to Kunsan AB, Korea. In another case, Japanese customs officials intercepted a package from Mississippi to Yokota AB, Japan, containing 40 grams of marijuana.

"In the wake of 9-11, we (OSI) and other investigative units focused more intently on our counterintelligence and antiterrorism mission," Colonel Hagerty said. "While this focus was necessary, it also provided opportunities for things like this to happen. Still, we can't drop what we're doing in the force protection arena and focus all of our attention on drug smuggling. We do, however, need to strike a balance between the two missions."

Along with inspections, another important component of the task force's efforts will involve education. The educational aspect of this campaign will be widespread, and OSI wants to reinforce the fact they are still very much in the

### **The Air Force team**

**The Ruthless Raven Air Force element has representatives from OSI, Security Forces, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard and other functional experts.**

business of looking carefully at drug smuggling and illegal drug use.

Not only will bases receive the education needed to detect and deter, but OSI also plans to begin widespread random inspections throughout the Air Force.

Operation Ruthless Raven will also target those using the military postal service for illegal drug smuggling.

"We have amazing technology that can readily disclose the presence of narcotics in sealed packages," said Special Agent Bernard Rich, OSI Drug Program Manager. "We also have an incredible low-tech capability in the form of drug dogs that can sniff out even the most cleverly disguised narcotics." **GR**

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Aliases were used in this article for agents.

# Terrorism **strikes** London

*51st FIS agents help with the recovery efforts after terrorists strike London's transportation systems*

**SA Deborah Wittleson**

*OSI 51st FIS, London*

July 7, started out just as any other day in the bustling city of London, England.

Special Agents Jason Peterson and Steven Johnson, OSI 51st Field Investigations Squadron, Operating Location-C, London, were on their morning commute to their office in the center of the city. SA Johnson walked to work while SA Peterson rode one of London's double-decker buses as he normally did.

Early in the day, phone calls came in suggesting a massive power surge on London's underground subway system caused a few small fuse boxes along the rail line to explode. This was not alarming, as parts of the subway system are typically under repair at any given time. However, confirmation from New Scotland Yard and the Ministry of Defense Police soon confirmed their worst fears — there was a confirmed improvised explosive device



Photo by Paulo Oliveira Santos, photo illustration by James C. Dillard



detonation on a double-decker bus with many fatalities.

"The first thing that crossed my mind was that my wife had planned to run errands in the city that morning," SA Peterson said. "I quickly called home and breathed a sigh of relief as I heard her answer on the other end. I told her to stay put."

SA Johnson also immediately called his wife to check on her safety. After knowing their families were safe, they called their contacts around London.

First, they called New Scotland Yard and the City of London Police. SA Johnson said he remembers they had a situation where mass confusion accompanied the realization that London had been the scene of multiple terrorist attacks.

"It was crucial to reach out to our contacts to cut through the media frenzy and get to the bottom of what had taken place," he said. "We quickly found out some of our contacts themselves were watching the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) news coverage of the events and advised us to do the same. Since communication links were initially crippled, the on-scene news crews were providing the best source of updated information."

The media soon confirmed four IEDs exploded on the public transportation system in London. One explosion took place on a double-decker bus and three more on various subway trains throughout the center of London. Another explosion ripped through a train as it pulled out of Edgware Road station, about 100 yards from the OL-C office.

"That explosion definitely hit home when we could see the emergency services responding to the scene from our third floor office window," SA Peterson said.

Special Agents Johnson and Peterson remade their office into a makeshift 24-hour command post to process the deluge of incoming queries and to quickly fire off updates regarding the attacks to keep the 51st FIS, Region 5, OSI Headquarters and senior U.S. Air Forces in Europe leadership informed on the latest developments through hourly updates after the multiple terrorist attacks.

The relationships Special Agents

Peterson and Johnson had built with British counterparts were put to the test.

Despite being embroiled in the largest police operation in United Kingdom history, British contacts routinely gave them updates on the rapidly developing investigation.

"All of the time spent liaising with our contacts and building a common bond of trust — putting a face to a name — really paid off when we needed it most," SA Peterson said. "Both OSI and Air Force leadership immediately trusted the information obtained through these liaison contacts, routinely requesting additional reports because OSI OL-C was regarded as the only active source in London providing useful, updated information concerning the attacks."

Soon, numerous other agencies called SA Johnson directly, requesting to be put on his hourly update distribution list.

An attack on the London subway network had not been a question of "if" but rather "when."

"Whether it's wishful thinking or not, there is always hope in the back of your mind that it's not going to happen on your watch," SA Peterson said. "Preparing for the worst and hoping for the best is what led to a quick and successful response to the terrorist attacks."

The British were certainly well prepared, having rehearsed responses to a terrorist attack during exercises."

Likewise, both special agents prepared themselves by creating and ensuring lines of communication would stay open during a crisis.

As the police counterterrorist operations continue and resilient Londoners return to a state of normalcy, Special Agents Johnson and Peterson stand together with British counterparts and live the former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's famous words, "Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength." **GR**

*Editor's note: For those interested, a complete "lessons learned" report is available for distribution. If you would like a copy, contact SA Steven Johnson or SA Jason Peterson who will e-mail the report via SIPRNET.*

## Under the streets of London

According to the London Transportation Web site, their subway safety record is better than all the other systems of similar age across the world and better than some more modern systems. London's subway safety management system, with that of the system in Hong Kong, is the best in the world.

They attribute that safety record to the following concepts: precise measuring and recording of all incidents, whether involving passengers, staff or contractors; systematically analyzing the cause of problems; addressing those causes in a prioritized, carefully organized way and devising and implementing ways of removing the causes of safety incidents.

The final authority on safety concerns is the Health and Safety Executive, the government body charged with regulating London Transportation's safety standards.

The HSE is empowered to ensure that London Underground continually improves its safety record, treats safety issues opening and explicitly, constantly improves its understanding and control of risks and remains "questioning and vigilant."

According to the Web site, a person is twelve times likely to become a fatality just walking down the street.

(Information courtesy of [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk).)

**1st Lt. Byron Coward**  
*OSI Public Affairs*

**A**t the end of World War I, thousands of soldiers and sailors embarked on long ocean journeys home.

*These after-war voyages allowed them the opportunity to talk to one another regarding their experiences in the conflict. It served as a sort of informal peer-to-peer debriefing that greatly improved their psychological well-being and helped prepare them for life after the war.*

Sixty years later, the Global War on Terrorism has likewise exposed thousands of servicemembers to the horrors of war. The long boat ride has been replaced by airlift, enabling the relatively

rapid movement of personnel in and out of the theater of operations. This gives the service member little time for decompression or reintegration, which is crucial to their psychological well-being. As a result, the General Accounting Office estimates that 15-percent of service members stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan will develop post-traumatic stress disorder.

The OSI Deployment Stress Management Program began in March after leadership recognized the need to do more for deploying agents, support personnel and their families. Maj. (Dr.) Linda Estes and Maj. (Dr.) David Englert of the OSI Behavior Analysis Division developed a program designed to assist deploying members and their families during pre-deployment, deployment and redeployment.

The Region 5 staff acquired, designed, furnished and coordinated funding for a new facility at Ramstein

Air Base, Germany, that is designed and dedicated specifically for the Deployment Stress Management Program. The apartment-style facility has eating, living, meeting and storage areas. Attendees will also have Internet capabilities to access their personal and work e-mail accounts.

A major component of this program is the redeployment stage, which consists of the decompression and reintegration period. This period includes a two-day respite in the Germany facility that allows agents and support personnel the opportunity to re-adapt to life in a non-hostile environment. It also gives attendees the opportunity to talk about their experiences in theater. It's similar to what WW I soldiers experienced on their boat ride home.

Attendees are encouraged to talk about their experiences outside of the

See **boat ride** on the following page

# The Journey Home

*The OSI Deployment Stress Management Program deals with the stresses of returning home from deployments*



U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

Soldiers wait aboard a transport before returning home to the United States after World War I.



## Witt continued from page 7

the 15 months leading up to the trial.”

This case took agents from Georgia to Wisconsin, as Special Agents Wildes and J.D. Hall conducted an extensive background investigation on Airman Witt.

Det. 105 enlisted the assistance of other OSI detachments from around the country. Special Agents Scott Keller and Randy Metzger, who were assigned to Det. 101, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, at the time, and SA Joann Schmidt from Det 102, Hanscom AFB, Mass., all volunteered to come to Robins AFB to assist in interviews for a week.

SA Christian Thomasson from Det. 311, Moody AFB, Ga., assisted Det. 105 in a media analysis of Airman Witt’s computers. Agents conducted more than 100 interviews and logged more than 60 items of evidence. They put in more than 1,350 hours on this case.

“The most amazing feat about this case was that a majority of the agents who arrived at the scene of the crime that July morning were probationary agents, some handling the first case of their young careers,” SA Wildes said. “Their dedication, teamwork and professionalism was remarkable. Working together and getting the job done efficiently and effectively lead to the conclusion of a very tough case and a just end.” **GR**

## Boat ride continued from previous page

wire: the sights, smells and noises, as well as interactions with the locals, said Dr. Larry Lewis, operational psychologist for OSI’s Behavior Analysis Directorate. They are encouraged to share the little decisions that had big consequences.

“We talk about the things they would’ve talked about on the ship,” Dr. Lewis said.

While in the theater of operations, servicemembers are targeted from every aspect. The combat zone includes public places and designated safe zones. This keeps servicemembers on a heightened sense of alert. Individuals may also endure long hours and intense situations while deployed.

“We purposely don’t eat in the chow halls,” Dr. Lewis said. “We want to reacquaint them to walking and dining in public places without fear or suspicion. They can start moving away from always being on 100-percent alert.”

Attendees also receive instruction on what to expect when they return home to their families and friends. They are made aware that new family dynamics may have formed while they were away, Dr. Lewis said.

Special Agent Brooke Carr, a recent attendee of the respite, said she gained insight into how to identify post-deployment stress symptoms and the challenges of readjusting to the family environment after being away for so long.

“Specifically, we discussed which symptoms are normal and will likely sub-

**Home sweet home**  
Program attendees received instruction on what to expect when they return home to family and friends. Things such as family dynamics may have changed in their absence.

side and which ones might require support,” SA Carr said. “Because the family has been forced to function relatively independent of the deployed member, it’s difficult for everyone to make a smooth transition back to ‘the way it used to be.’”

Just as friends and family members develop habits and adapt to absences, work relationships are affected as well.

Co-workers might have to take a different role after the deployed member returns. The workload might have improved their status in the office, and made them reluctant to share, Dr. Lewis said. Returning members might return to an office where most, if not all, of their co-workers have relocated and new personnel may perceive them as outsiders. It is even possible for returning members to discover that their office space no longer exists.

“It may take some time for them to get back into the rotation of things,” Dr. Lewis said. “We want them to think about these things and develop strategies to overcome these issues.”

Dr. Lewis said he disagrees with the notion that decompression isn’t needed for people who are experienced in the deployment lifestyle.

“Experienced members and their fami-

lies have their own techniques, but there is still a need for decompression,” Dr. Lewis said. “Each deployment is unique. Family, friends and co-workers have changed and grown since their last deployment. What might have worked for one deployment might not work for another.”

Most servicemembers will return from the desert and think they are fine, said Dr. Englert. However, their symptoms could surface three to four months later.

“The program is off to a great start,” Dr. Lewis said. “Everything is falling into a routine, but the biggest issues are the flight rotations from the theater to Ramstein. We try to make everything as user-friendly as possible, but we cannot control the rotations. However, these issues have never delayed anyone from returning home on their normal schedule.”

Dr. Lewis said the program is still working through its initial growing pains. At this point, he said it’s not considered a finished product, but rather something that continues to adapt based on feedback.

“Region 5 has been the workhorses behind the scenes making this program happen,” Dr. Lewis said. “Col. Michael Stoker (Region 5 commander), Lt. Col. Lee Shaffer (Region 5 vice commander) and their staffs have contributed the resources and manpower to keep the program alive and running.”

Dr. Lewis hopes as the program continues, all of its misconceptions will be eliminated. As OSI expands its capabilities, the program will expand.

“This is a living program, because this is a living war,” Dr. Lewis said. **GR**

# Key Spouse program gives peace of mind to OSI family

**James C. Dillard**

*Global Reliance Editor*

Mrs. Susan Simmons, wife of Brig. Gen. Dana A. Simmons, OSI commander, is working with OSI leadership and the Andrews Air Force Base Family Support Center to create an OSI Key Spouse program for headquarters.

Mrs. Simmons volunteered to be the liaison between the FSC and OSI families.

"Hopefully, over time, we'll be able to get more people involved in the program," Mrs. Simmons said. "Any spouse or family member of a deployed OSI member may join."

The primary focus of the Key Spouse program will be to support the families of deployed OSI members. If children are left with other relatives, aside from the parents, the Key Spouse program is designed to help them as well.

Senior Master Sgt. Lincoln Headen, OSI first sergeant, will be working alongside Mrs. Simmons to get the program running. His responsibility with the program, specifically, will be to function as an advisor to the OSI liaison and FSC for the Key Spouses.

"The implementation of this program will serve to better inform deployed spouses of any ongoing activities and will be a venue for communication," Sergeant Headen said.

With increased deployments to support the war in the Southwest Asia, the need for support programs increases as well.

"We really need a program to take care

of both our deployed people and families at home," Mrs. Simmons said. "We should also be aware of the programs available at the Family Support Center."

Mrs. Simmons said she'd like for the spouses of deployed OSI members to get together occasionally, so they can spend some time with someone who is going through the same thing.

"It's always easier, I think, to have people in the same situation as you to talk to," she said. "It

makes the time away from the deployed family member more tolerable. We'll get together and have a

nice dinner where the spouse doesn't have to cook. We also plan to offer opportunities for 'time-outs' away from the kids where the spouse can relax a little."

The Key Spouse program has been around since 1997, according to the Air Force Personnel Center Web site.

The OSI Key Spouse program will be a partnership between Key Spouses, OSI leadership and the Andrews AFB Family Support Center. Mrs. Simmons will assist with quality-of-life programs and services for family members.

The Key Spouse Program provides a framework for stability and support. Key Spouses inform, support and refer family members to the appropriate base agencies. They work to enhance the ease of commu-

nication between spouses, leadership and base support agencies. A Key Spouse program should enhance mission readiness as well.

Mrs. Simmons said if the program is working at the OSI HQ level, she hopes to see it branch off to other OSI units around the world.

OSI is also somewhat unique in the military world, as it deploys civilians as well as uniformed military members.

"Our Key Spouse program will cover both active duty and civilians," Mrs. Simmons said. "The regular program is typically set up for active duty members. We're trying to figure out how OSI can work civilians into the program."

For more detailed information on the Key Spouse program, check out the Key Spouse reference guide on the AFPC Web site at

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/famops/Training/keyspouse/KeySpouse.htm>.

For any questions about OSI's Key Spouse program, contact Mrs. Simmons through e-mail at [SWT77@aol.com](mailto:SWT77@aol.com), or give her a call at (301) 599-0548. You may also contact SMSgt. Headen at (240) 857-9184, or DSN 857-9184. His e-mail address is: [Lincoln.Headen@ogn.af.mil](mailto:Lincoln.Headen@ogn.af.mil).

The OSI Key Spouse program is currently in its beginnings, but Mrs. Simmons is hopeful it will be active very soon.

An announcement on when it will be ready will be posted in the new "Better-Half Telegraph," a newsletter designed to communicate to the spouses of OSI members. **GR**

## On the Web

Learn more about the Key Spouse program at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/famops/Training/keyspouse/KeySpouse.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/famops/Training/keyspouse/KeySpouse.htm)

**Promoted** continued from page 4

want to share this day with you."

His son Jeff Simmons, was present at the ceremony.

Jeff said he's proud of his dad.

"I think he's worked pretty hard and definitely deserves

it," he said.

Jeff, who will be joining the Air Force in January as a maintenance technician, said he's going to have to watch his step when he gets in.

"If I get in trouble, he'll probably be the first to know it," he said.

Jeff remembers when he was growing up, his father

spent a lot of time traveling.

"He was always working hard with his job in the Air Force," Jeff said.

General Simmons' wife, Susan Simmons, was excited about his new position as the general over an organization such as OSI, but also a little nervous for him.

"It's a little scary," Mrs.

Simmons said. "There's a lot of responsibility in his position. Instead of being responsible for four children, his family has extended to all of OSI. He's perfect for the job, though, because he's always been a people person who has tried to look out for his people and has done whatever he can to help them." **GR**



# The holidays

*Reflect upon the people and events that made OSI what it is today*

**Mr. Deryl Danner**  
OSI Historian

**D**uring this holiday season, I thought it befitting to reflect upon the times that have molded and shaped us into the institution we are today.

There were times when our organization and people, in a most difficult and trying beginning, endured many hardships and overcame many obstacles.

## Laying the groundwork

Our pioneers displayed sheer grit, determination, dedication and commitment. Their temperance and vast experience laid the groundwork for our superior training.

All of these things ensured our continued presence and our ability to stand steadfast and ready, in conviction to the mission, with an equally demanded boldness in the face of ever increasing expectations and adversity.

With the establishment of the U.S. Air Force as a separate service on Sept. 18, 1947, it was less than a year later on Aug. 1, 1948, that the Office of Special Investigations came into existence. Less than six months following activation, we began training our first agents.

OSI would be tested early when the newly-established U.S. Air Force responded to the invasion of South Korea in June 1950. In fact, it was OSI Special Agent Don Nichols, entrenched with South Korean forces, who sent out the earliest



Photo courtesy of the OSI History Office

**The OSI family extends beyond agents and support staff.** The OSI family also includes the people who mean the most to them. In this OSI history photo from 1995, a young boy accepts a gift from Santa Claus (Dave Edwards) at the OSI Headquarters Children's Christmas Party.

warnings of an imminent attack by North Korea. He also made the official notification to the Far East Air Forces headquarters on the morning of the actual attack.

Throughout the ensuing years, OSI has left its indelible mark by participating in almost every combat and contingency operation the Air Force has ever been tasked to support. In many instances, our agents were some of the first to deploy.

## OSI history

As your historian, in addition to writing the official history and maintaining the command's vast archives, I preserve a variety of permanent heritage and static displays, artifacts and pictures of OSI assets deployed around the globe. Every display invariably depicts the courage and dedication of the men and women of OSI.

In these displays I see missed holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and family events

that were sacrificed defending our nation's interest. Some of these displays also reflect those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

## Remember the heroes

When you find yourself "stressed out," this holiday season, think of your OSI family members who sacrificed their holidays so we can enjoy the rights and privileges we enjoy today. Reflect upon our fallen heroes, veterans, those actively serving and their respective families.

As OSI members, we are never alone. Our family transcends blood lines of those who served long before us to the men and women we serve with every day.

No matter our geographic location during this holiday season, let us celebrate with these thoughts in mind. By doing so, we enrich the proud history and tradition, which epitomizes our OSI as one of the oldest and proudest U.S. Air Force institutions in existence today.

I hope you have a happy and safe holiday season. **GR**

## Discover OSI

To learn more about OSI's history program, contact Mr. Deryl Danner at: [Deryl.Danner@ogn.af.mil](mailto:Deryl.Danner@ogn.af.mil).

# Murder and Deceit

*Three years after OSI helped solve an Air Force captain's murder, the case is picked up to be aired on national TV*

**by James C. Dillard**  
*Global Reliance Editor*

A murder committed five years ago is now receiving media attention from the Oxygen Network and U.S. News and World Report magazine.

In December of 2000, Army Staff Sgt. John Diamond murdered Air Force Capt. Marty Theer. The investigation into the case was a collaborative effort between OSI, the Fayetteville, N.C., Police Department and the Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Special Agent Vince Bustillo, the case agent from Det. 324, Pope Air Force Base, N.C., was interviewed by the Oxygen Network and U.S. News and World Report about the case. The Oxygen Network show, scheduled to air at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on Jan. 1, is part of a series entitled "Snapped." The U.S. News and World Report article hit the stands Dec. 12.

"It was interesting to see how the Oxygen Network documentaries are created and shot," SA Bustillo said. "I haven't seen the final footage, yet, though, so I'll reserve my judgment on what it's like to be a part of the show."

Michael Rogers, a producer for Jupiter Entertainment and Oxygen Networks, has put together more than 30 of these shows as part of the "Snapped" series.

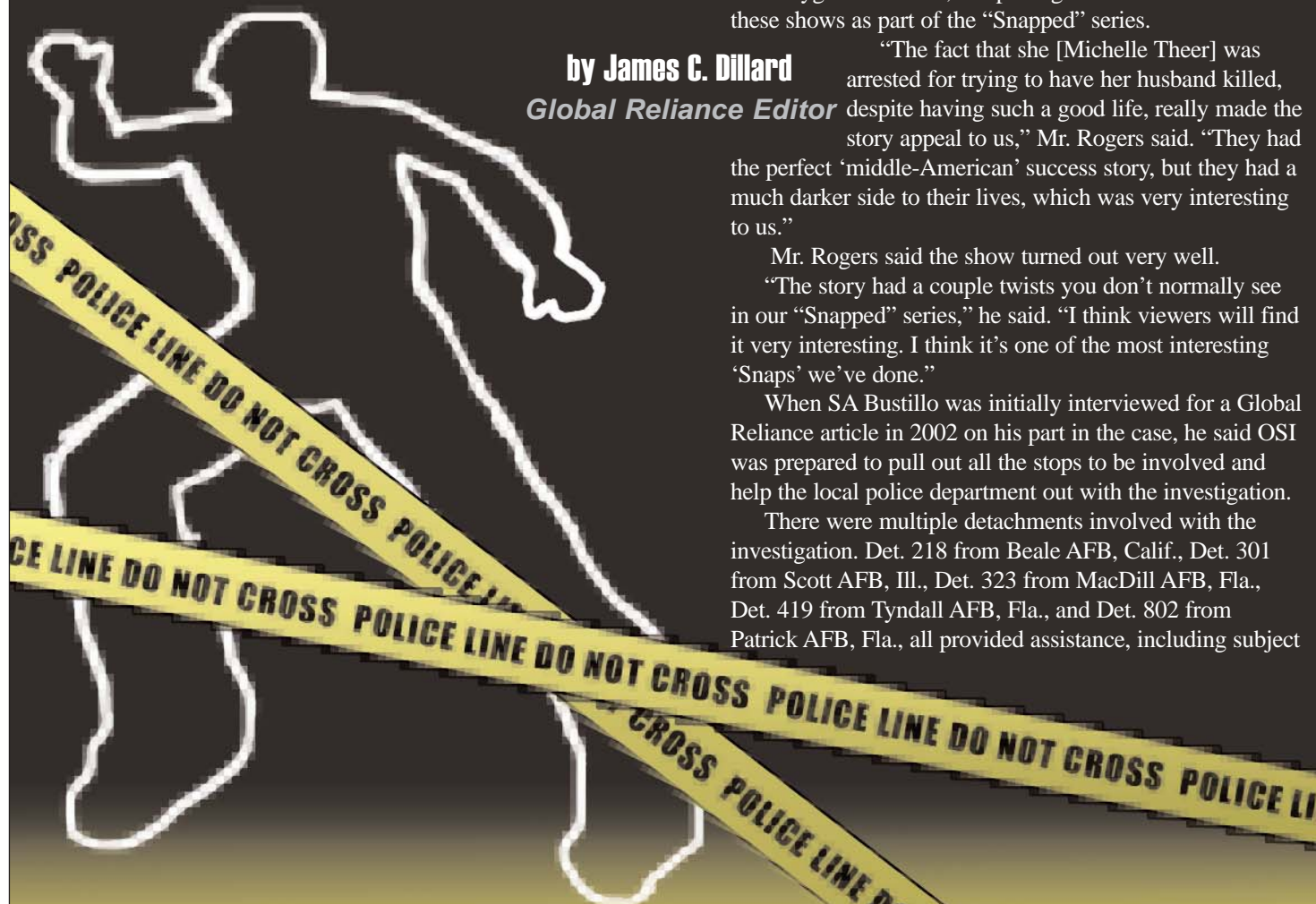
"The fact that she [Michelle Theer] was arrested for trying to have her husband killed, despite having such a good life, really made the story appeal to us," Mr. Rogers said. "They had the perfect 'middle-American' success story, but they had a much darker side to their lives, which was very interesting to us."

Mr. Rogers said the show turned out very well.

"The story had a couple twists you don't normally see in our "Snapped" series," he said. "I think viewers will find it very interesting. I think it's one of the most interesting 'Snaps' we've done."

When SA Bustillo was initially interviewed for a Global Reliance article in 2002 on his part in the case, he said OSI was prepared to pull out all the stops to be involved and help the local police department out with the investigation.

There were multiple detachments involved with the investigation. Det. 218 from Beale AFB, Calif., Det. 301 from Scott AFB, Ill., Det. 323 from MacDill AFB, Fla., Det. 419 from Tyndall AFB, Fla., and Det. 802 from Patrick AFB, Fla., all provided assistance, including subject





interviews, follow-up on tips, fixed-point surveillance, computer media analysis and physical surveillance.

### **The murder**

Captain Theer, a C-130 pilot with the 2nd Airlift Squadron, Pope AFB, N.C., was shot to death in the parking lot of his wife's office building in Fayetteville after they attended a Christmas party.

The evening began when Captain Theer and his wife, Michelle, picked up her coworkers in the parking lot of her office building, so they could travel in the captain's vehicle to a Christmas party in Raleigh, N.C. After the party, Captain Theer dropped his wife's coworkers back off at their vehicles and went to a nearby gas station to get fuel.

Dr. Theer, a civilian psychologist, remembered she needed to return to her office, so she could pick up some items she needed to review for the next day, according to investigation reports. The Theers returned to her office building, and Dr. Theer used an external staircase to get to her second-floor office while her husband waited in the vehicle.

Captain Theer's wife later told the FPD she heard a series of loud noises while in her office, which she initially attributed to a vehicle backfiring. Following the noises, she opened the door to her office and discovered her husband lying at the bottom of the staircase suffering from gunshot wounds. He was later pronounced dead on the scene by emergency responders.

### **The investigation**

During an interview with the FPD, Dr. Theer admitted to having an extramarital affair with an Army soldier, Sergeant Diamond, assigned to the 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.

At first, Sergeant Diamond collaborated her statement in his interview with the FPD when he said he was at home sleeping during the time of the murder. Sergeant Diamond's then-wife said she was also sleeping during that time and could not vouch for her husband's activity.

In February 2001, a confidential informant notified OSI that a suspicious vehicle was parking down the street from Dr. Theer's house, and a white male was observed walking to her home and spending

the night.

"Through DMV records, we identified the male as Sergeant Diamond," SA Bustillo said.

On Feb. 11, 2001, OSI installed a closed-circuit television camera to watch the activities at Dr. Theer's house. Throughout the investigation, key witnesses visiting her were identified via the fixed-point surveillance.

An acquaintance of Sergeant Diamond's disclosed Sergeant Diamond borrowed his personal weapon just days before the murder, according to official reports. Sergeant Diamond returned the 9-mm gun a few days after Captain Theer was shot. One week later, the sergeant borrowed the weapon again — he never returned it.

"We asked the witness to call Diamond and ask for his gun back," SA Bustillo said. "He agreed and made the first of three phone calls. On the first call, Diamond told him he no longer had the weapon."

As investigators were leaving the office heading to the parking lot, the witness ran up to them and said Sergeant Diamond had called him back a fourth time and said he had the gun and would bring it in to officials.

"So, we go back in to the police department to write up the statement," SA Bustillo said. "While we were there, the CID agent with us gets a call saying Sergeant Diamond had just gone to the military police and was filing a police report stating his vehicle had been broken into and the witness' gun had been stolen."

### **Caught in a lie**

After Sergeant Diamond reported the burglary to the Fort Bragg military police, they charged him with possession of an unregistered weapon on a military installation. Sergeant Diamond said he parked his vehicle in a parking lot located at Fort Bragg and went to Florida, with the gun under the driver's seat. He said when he returned, he discovered his vehicle had been broken into and the gun missing.

"OSI's fixed-point surveillance revealed Diamond leaving Michelle's house in his vehicle one hour prior to his report," SA Bustillo said. "The vehicle's window was intact at that time."

During an interview with CID, Sergeant

Diamond said he went to Florida with Dr. Theer and parked his vehicle at Fort Bragg until Dr. Theer dropped him off at his vehicle.

Sergeant Diamond was later sent out to a field exercise where he attempted to flee. His commanding officer placed him in pre-trial confinement for the adultery charges, making false statements and attempting to flee.

In a follow-up interview with Sergeant Diamond's wife on April 23, 2001, she said on the night of the murder she and Sergeant Diamond were watching a movie when he received a phone call on his cell phone.

He left the room with the phone, got dressed, told her he was going to the barracks and left. Before her initial interview with OSI and FPD, she said her husband called and instructed her to tell the police he had been at home watching the movie with her. During interviews with other witnesses, OSI learned that Sergeant Diamond told them Captain Theer had raped and beaten Dr. Theer, and she wanted to hire a hit man to kill him.

### **Judgment day**

Sergeant Diamond was formally charged with Captain Theer's murder March 9, 2001. One week prior to the court martial, Sergeant Diamond pled guilty to committing adultery and illegally transporting and storing a privately owned weapon.

A jury of his peers found him guilty of premeditated murder, conspiracy and obstruction of justice during his general court-martial. As part of his life sentence Sergeant Diamond was also reduced in rank to private, ordered to forfeit all pay and dishonorably discharged.

"I believe Diamond's sentence was just," SA Bustillo said. "He was arrogant and showed no hint of remorse. I personally believe he should have received the death penalty."

Sergeant Diamond is serving his sentence at Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, Kan. Dr. Theer also received life in prison.

**GR**

*Editor's note: Much of the information in this article was pulled from an article written by MSgt. Carolyn Gwathmey, OSI Public Affairs, for the January/February 2002 issue of the Global Reliance.*



## Editor's notes

This is the second issue featuring the OSI In Focus page, and it's going well. In the past, we just didn't have enough room to put every photo submission in the magazine. The In Focus page is your opportunity to highlight things going on with your unit. E-mail your photos to [James.Dillard.ctr@ogn.af.mil](mailto:James.Dillard.ctr@ogn.af.mil) with the subject line, OSI in Focus. Include a few sentences describing what's going on in the picture and the names of people. Also, make sure you tell me who took the picture, so we can give them the proper credit.

**\*\*\*\* Also, I'd like to come out to visit a couple detachments to take photos and conduct interviews. Preferably, the stories will focus on cases you've recently closed. We can also put together a unit mission article, with interviews from several people in your unit. \*\*\*\***

Let me know if you have any ideas, and we'll work together to put together a nice article about your unit.

Thanks for your support. - James C. Dillard, Editor

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### Family continued from page 4

with the family at home.

Now please understand: In no way am I suggesting you subordinate your outside family obligations to those of your OSI family. Granted, work can put a strain on the home life, but we should never forget it's the home life that counts the most. Instead, I'm simply suggesting that if we internalize the notion of our colleagues as members of the same extended family, I think we consequently internalize a shared notion of success.

This time of year, family at home demands our attention, and rightly so. But don't forget about your family at work.

Look out for each other and realize that the holidays are not a great time of year for everyone. For some, this season brings back painful memories or reopens

old wounds. While most of us are gathered together with family, there are those who might spend it alone. Don't let that happen to those around you.

If you're a supervisor, ensure that your folks have somewhere to go and won't end up spending the holidays alone. I'm not saying you have to host them at your home; just make sure they have some place to go.

Finally, there's a group among us we should all think of first when we celebrate the holidays: those deployed members of our OSI family and each of their individual families.

There are currently 177 of them deployed at this very moment, which means there are 177 families with an empty seat at the table this Christmas. Those who are deployed deserve our thoughts, prayers and messages of encouragement this holiday season.

Their families deserve all that and more, since they're still close by.

It's our duty to stop in and see them, invite them to holiday office parties when possible and basically just keep them involved. Our families at home are the extended OSI family, and as such they deserve our attention and care, particularly when they have family members deployed abroad.

If you haven't already started to think of OSI as a family, the holidays are a great time to start. Whether it's looking out for those with whom you work, staying in touch with families of deployed members, or hosting a holiday party, there are a number of different ways to bring the OSI family together at this time of year.

In so doing, you create ties that bind not just at the holidays, but throughout the year. **GR**



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# *Season's Greetings*

